

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/645,561**
Amendment filed November 23, 2005
Reply to OA dated September 30, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, and 7-8 are pending in this application. Original claims 1, 3-4, and 6 have been amended. Claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled. Claims 7 and 8 are new.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~keeping~~ case having a case main body for retaining species of insects, small animals, fish, etc., and a partition plate for dividing an inner space of the case main body, said case comprising

the[[a]] case main body having a pair of parallel side walls, capable of being open on its top side, upper brims of said side walls having turnback edges,

the partition plate, to divide an inner space of ~~thean upper-opening~~ case main body, attached to the case main body as to slide along a pair of parallel sides of the[[an]] upper ~~opening~~ brims of the case main body, and

said partition plate having U-shaped hitching portions detachably hitched on a pair of side walls of the case main body, and containing an elastically deformable holding piece and a wedge-shaped claw portion protruding from an inner side of the holding piece to prevent the partition plate from being drawn out of the case main body, ~~detachably hitched on the pair of sides of the case main body,~~

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whereby the hitching portions attach to the turnback edges by placing said hitching portions over parallel side walls and applying downward pressure to cause the claw portion to slide over said turnback edges resulting in elastic deformation of the holding piece portion outwardly until the hitching portions reach the lower end of the turnback edges and latch thereon.

Claim 2 (Cancelled):

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~keeping~~ case as set forth in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the partition plate has a belt piece portion, facing an inner face of the case main body, to prevent the partition plate from falling and inclining on each of side edges of the partition plate.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A partition plate ~~for~~to dividing[[e]] an inner space of a[[n]] ~~upper-opening~~ case main body of a ~~keeping~~ case for retaining species of insects, small animals, fish, etc., provided with comprising

at the main body having a pair of parallel side walls, capable of being open on its top side, upper brims of said side walls having turnback edges and,

a lid having ventilation holes to open and close the case, and

a partition plate, to divide an inner space of the case main body, attached to the case main body as to slide along a pair of parallel sides of the upper brims of the case main body, and

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a partition plate having U-shaped hitching portions detachably hitched on the pair of side walls of the case main body, and containing an elastically deformable holding piece and a wedge-shaped claw portion protruding from an inner side of the holding piece portion, to prevent the partition plate from being drawn out of the case main body, detachably hitched on the pair of sides of an upper-opening portion of the case main body

whereby the hitching portions attach to the turnback edges by placing said hitching portions over parallel side walls and applying downward pressure to cause the claw portion to slide over said turnback edge resulting in elastic deformation of the holding piece portion outwardly until the hitching portions reach the lower end of the turnback edges and latch thereon.

Claim 5 (Cancelled):

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The partition plate as set forth in claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~, wherein the partition plate has a belt piece portion, facing an inner face of the case main body, to prevent the partition plate from falling and inclining on each side edges of the partition plate as to be at right angles with each of the side edges.

Claim 7 (New): The case as set forth in claim 1, wherein said claw portion forming a right-angled triangle in cross-section.

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Claim 8 (New): The case as set forth in claim 1, wherein said claw portion forming a right-angled triangle in cross-section and having a round edge.